(b) and (c) Non-POL imports registered on increase during 1992-93 and 1993-94 due to increased growth of industrial production and import-linked exports; the Major share of imports is constituted by raw materials, intermediates, inputs and capital goods. The Export-Import Policy, inter-alia, aims to encourage efficient and internationally competitive import substitution within the liberalised framework of foreign trade.

Reduction in Trade Between India and Nepal

2051. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether after coming into power of the Communist Government in Nepal, there has been reduction in the trade between the two countries;

(b) if so, how much reduction has taken place in terms of percentage between the present and the past regimes; and

(c) the reaction of Government to the reduction in the trade and what steps does Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Statistics for India-Nepal trade, since the present Government of Nepal came into power, that has become available so far, is limited. It indicates no significant deviation from the trade pattern in the preceeding months.

Functioning of the Committee on Labour Standards

2052. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the National Labour Unions have opposed the appointment of the Chairman of the Committee to consider the question of Labour Standards and refused to sit with him as reported in the 'Hindu' dated the 8th August, 1994; and

(b) if so, whether Government would consider reconstituting this Commission to secure the cooperation of Indian Labour and to safeguard Indian Labour Rights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The CITU, AITUC and the HMS are reported to have questioned the need for the setting up of a separate Commission but the report does not state that the Unions refused to sit with him.

(b) There is no such proposal before the Government.

Rising Prices of Tea and Coffee

2053. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of tea and coffee have risen high in the recent months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to bring down the prices of the Commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The price of Coffee had experienced a sharp rise since June, 1994. However, prices have stabilised over the last few weeks. The unprecedented price rise was due to sharp increase of price of coffee in the international market owing to reported loss of crop on account of Brazilian frost. The international prices had a significant influence on the domestic price movement.

The average prices of all teas at Indian auctions during the months of August, September, October, November,